

Remarks

Claims 7-9 are pending and rejected. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 7-9.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,274,698 (Jang). In claim 7, the caller places a call to a called number (i.e. a dialed telephone number). The caller has a caller number (i.e. the caller's home telephone number). In the prior art, this caller number is checked in a validation table to determine if a call should be allowed. Typically, caller number validation is used to stop calls from callers who do not pay their bills.

Class check

The invention eliminates caller number validation on some calls. This innovation saves time and resources during call set-up. To skip caller number validation, the called number is checked to determine if the caller number needs to be validated. Consider the example of a caller who has not paid their phone bill and who places two calls: a call to 1-800-123-4567 and a call to 1-703-306-5838. On the "703" call (a normal long distance call), the caller is responsible for the bill, so caller number validation should be performed, and since the caller has not paid their bill, the call may not be allowed. On the "800" call, the called party pays for the call (a toll free call), so caller validation can be skipped because the caller does not pay for the call anyway.

Jang teaches classifying the caller based on their extension line (Jang, column 8, lines 48-51). Calls are then allowed or denied based on the caller classification and the called number (Jang, column 7, line 17 to column 8, line 10). Thus, Jang teaches processing the called number to determine if the call should be allowed. Jang does not teach processing the called number *to determine if the caller number should be validated*.

The term "telephone number" appears in Jang in various forms: "telephone number dialed by the subscriber", "telephone number of the subscriber", and "telephone number of dialed by the subscriber." (Jang, column 6, lines 41-61). From the entire context of Jang, it appears that the term "telephone number of the subscriber" refers to the called number. The tables are used to check called numbers and not to check caller numbers. (Jang, column 7, lines 17-34). Since the tables contain restrictions on called numbers, it appears that the telephone numbers checked in the table are called numbers,

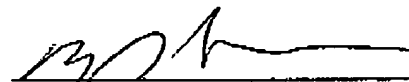
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caller classification.

and that Jang does not address caller numbers. If the caller extension lines used for classification are caller numbers, then Jang falls into the prior art described above.

Claims 8-9 are dependent on claim 7 and allowable for the reasons given above. Applicants submit that there are additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 7-9.

Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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